

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2733

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 10670

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

FOR THE ACTING SECRETARY FROM NEWSOM

PLEASE PASS SECRETARY IN BONN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: NEWSOM TALKS IN NEW DELHI

1. I HAD A VERY USEFUL SERIES OF MEETINGS JULY 12
WITH PRIME MINISTER DESAI, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER
VAJPAYEE, DEFENSE MINISTER RAM AND FOREIGN SECRETARY
MEHTA.

2. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS:

A. INDIA FEELS IT HAS MADE GESTURES TO PAKISTAN.
IT WANTS TO ASSURE PAKISTAN OF ITS FRIENDSHIP AND IS
PREPARED TO PROVIDE FOOD AID AND IMPROVE ECONOMIC
RELATIONS, BUT IS NOT PREPARED TO MAKE OVERTURES IN
ABSENCE PAKISTANI INITIATIVES. GOI AGREES WITH KIND
OF STEPS SHAH WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN TRANSIT TRADE AND
ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG FOUR COUNTRIES IN AREA, BUT
DOES NOT BELIEVE PAKISTANI ACCEPTANCE IS LIKELY.

B. GOI PREPARED ACCEPT PROVISION F-5S AND OTHER
MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN BY U.S.--SHOULD WE
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DECIDE TO DO SO--BUT IS NOT SURE OF HOW INDIAN "PUBLIC
OPINION" WILL REACT.

C. INDIA FEELS AFGHAN REG ME WILL REMAIN INDEPENDENT
AND HOPES U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.
WHETHER TRIBES BECOME PROBLEM DEPENDS IN PART ON HOW
PAKISTAN TREATS TRIBES.

D. DESAI REPEATED ASSURANCES ON NO NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS

OR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT BUT IS NOT PREPARED JOIN AREA NUCLEAR RESTRAINT DECLARATION IN ABSENCE UNILATERAL DECLARATIONS BY OTHER COUNTRIES.

E. GO PREPARED DELAY DECISION ON DPSA FOR MONTH OR SO IN VIEW DELICATE SITUATION IN PAKISTAN.

F.GOI PREPARED PROVIDE TROOPS FOR UN FORCE IN EITHER NAMIBIA OR ZIMBABWE.

G. GOI HAS BEEN ADVISED BY SOVIETS THAT U.S. HAS SUSPENDED INDIAN OCEAN TALKS. FONSEC MEHTA SAID INDIA REGRETTED THIS AND WAS FEARFUL SOVIETS WOULD RAISE ISSUE OF THIS AT BELGRADE NAM MEETING. (I TOLD MEHTA CURRENT SOVIET ACTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN HUMAN RIGHTS AREA, MADE IT DIFFICULT TO CONTINUE MANY ACTIVITIES WITH USSR EVEN WHERE WE WANTED TO. WE WERE, DESPITE DOMESTIC OPPOSITION, PROCEEDING WITH SALT, BUT DOMESTIC REACTION TO SOVIET MOVES HAS CREATED DOUBTS THAT CONGRESS MAY EVENTUALLY APPROVE.)

H. GOI NOT LIKELY JOIN IN ANY EFFORT INSTITUTIONALIZE UN HUMAN RIGHTS EFFORT FOR FEAR OF CHALLENGING SOVIETS.

3. COMMENT: ON KEY ISSUE OF INDIAN REACTION TO CURRENT EVENTS IN PAKISTAN, IT IS CLEAR THAT GOI FEELS IT CAN HAVE LITTLE INFLUENCE, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO PERCEPTIBLE INTENTION TO MAKE THINGS WORSE. THEY WILL TOLERATE WHAT WE FEEL WE NEED TO DO TO REASSURE PAKISTAN IN CONNECTION WITH SUSPENSION OF THE REPORCESSING PLANT. THEIR CONCERN OVER

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EVENTS IN AFGHAISTAN IS NOT AS NOTICABLE AS I HAD EXPECTED. THEY WANT TO TREAT AFGHANISTAN AS NATION STILL INDEPENDENT AND WELCOME FACT WE WISH TO DO THE SAME.

4. SEPTELS REPORTING DETAILS OF CONVERSATIONS BEING SENT TO DEPARTMENT.

GOHEEN

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